

Ask: Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive
OK Prayer: Session 6

Ask: FORGIVE US... (1 Jn 1:7)

David's Prayer for Forgiveness: Psalm 51

Necessary Practices of Forgiveness:

1. Make an honest confession of _____.
 - a. about _____ (Ex 34:6-7a)
 - b. about _____ (Ex 34:7b)
 - o *transgression* = _____ against God's authority
 - o *iniquity* = waywardness, _____, twisted
 - o *sin* = willful _____ to do what is required (2 Sa 12:7-10)
 - c. about your _____. (1 Jn 1:8)

FALSE (Deceptive) Confession: We tend to...

- 1) _____ the damage.
- 2) _____ the offense.
- 3) _____ the wrong.
- 4) _____ our actions.
- 5) Shift the _____.

2. Do the _____ of real repentance. (Isa 6:5)

"[True prayer] saps our self-deception . . . So by prayer we acquire our true selves."¹ P. T. Forsyth

COUNTERFEIT Repentance: "Worldly Sorrow"

- 1) _____ - _____ ("regret-ance"): _____ sorrow
 - 2) _____ - _____ snobbery: _____ sorrow
 - 3) _____ - _____ & self-loathing: _____ sorrow
- ❖ "Godly sorrow brings repentance" 2 Cor. 7:10

¹ Peter Taylor Forsyth, *The Soul of Prayer* (written 1916). Available at: <https://ccel.org/ccel/forsyth/prayer>.

3. _____ to be forgiven. (2 Cor 5:17)

4. Be _____ by the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23)

“For love loves unto purity. Where loveliness is incomplete . . . it spends itself to make more lovely, that it may love more. Therefore all that is not beautiful in the beloved, all that comes between and is not of love’s kind, must be destroyed.”² George MacDonald

AS WE FORGIVE . . . Matthew 6:9-15

Christian-ish MYTHS of Forgiveness:

1) God is the _____ authority. (Rom 13:1, Mt 18:16-17)

2) Forgiving should be easy & _____. (Lk 17:3, Gal 6:1)

3) To forgive is to _____. (Ps 103:12, Jer 31:34; Mt 18:15-17)— to “not remember” means to not act according to what the sin deserves.

4) There should be _____ anger. (Ps 4:4, Eph 4:25-26, Jas 1:19; Ps 109, Mt 6:5-6, Jas 1:20)

“Resentment always makes us feel morally superior to the wrongdoer . . . If you don’t see that you too are a sinner needing grace, your resentment will twist and defile you.”³ Timothy Keller

5) _____ should be immediate & unconditional. (Mt 11:21, Lk 11:42-53)

“Until a person shows evidence of true change, we should not trust the person. To immediately re-trust a person with sinful habits could actually be enabling him or her to sin.”⁴ Timothy Keller

When Forgiveness Is a Struggle: Ask God . . .

1. To _____ the sin of unforgiveness.

2. To reveal the _____ of unforgiveness.

3. To _____ you His love for the offender.

4. To _____ a clean heart in you.

5. To give you _____ for interactions.

6. To help you _____ to be changed.

* Please note that I rely much on (and highly recommend) pastor Timothy Keller’s brilliant book, *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* (Viking Press, 2022).

² George MacDonald, “The Consuming Fire” (1867) in *The Heart of George MacDonald*, ed. Rolland Hein (Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw Pub., 1994), 328.

³ Timothy Keller, *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* (New York, NY: Viking, 2022), 165-166.

⁴ Ibid, p. 170.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. C. S. Lewis writes, "When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. . . . A moderately bad man knows he is not very good: a thoroughly bad man thinks he is all right."⁵ How have your ideas and practices regarding the confession of sin changed from your early experience with God until now?
2. Why is humility a pre-requisite for honest repentance?
3. In the list of *FALSE confession* tendencies, which do you do most with other people? With God?
4. Consider the quote from George MacDonald. How does this type of love differ from the sentimentality expressed in the phrase, "I love you just the way you are"?
 - How does this type of love challenge you to let God change you?
 - How does it encourage you to confront people you love to help them become more holy?
5. Have you ever been caught in the trap of worldly sorrow? How did you recognize it and find freedom in Godly sorrow?
6. How can knowing the truth of God's Word help you pursue justice and extend forgiveness?

⁵ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 1952, 1980), 93.